



Rory B. Collins
Chief of Police

SALISBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

An Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

ON-SITE ASSESSMENT NEWS RELEASE INVITING PUBLIC COMMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

Salisbury, North Carolina, November 1, 2013-- A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), will arrive Sunday, November 10, 2013, to examine all aspects of the Salisbury Police Department policy and procedure, management, operations, and support services, Chief Rory B. Collins announced today.

Verification by the team that the Salisbury Police Department meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation--a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, he said.

As a part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday, November 11th 2013 beginning at 6:00pm. The session will be conducted in the Salisbury Police Department's Training/Seminar Room, located at 130 E. Liberty Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. If for some reason an individual cannot speak at the public information session



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but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, he/she may do so by telephone. The public may call (704) 216-2726 on Monday, November 11th, 2013 from 3:00pm until 5:00pm. Telephone comments, as well as those made at the public information session, are limited to

10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Salisbury Police Department. Local contact is Diana Gonzalez, Accreditation Manager, at 704-638-4490.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Salisbury Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia 20155.

"The Salisbury Police Department must comply with 188 standards in order to maintain the accredited status the department has now held for the past 23 years," Chief Collins says. "The 188 standards under review relate to those areas which are crucial to the proper functioning of a healthy law enforcement agency, and which enable such an agency to perform as it should in protecting its community, with much focus being placed upon those aspects of high risk and high liability.

While it is truly a meaningful achievement to earn and maintain an accredited law enforcement status, the most significant achievement that we earn through this process is the ability to demonstrate to our community that the law enforcement agency sworn and dedicated to serve and protect them, is doing so at an exceedingly high level, which has been reviewed and tested. It is my sincere hope that, upon successful completion of our 8th annual reaccreditation process, the achievement will be used to help further strengthen the relationships, and bonds of trust, between the department and our community, to a level that is even greater than that in which we have already reached.



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I have faith in the efforts and professionalism of the dedicated men and women who serve within our department and am confident that our pursuit of this law enforcement accreditation status will be a success. It is a great honor to lead an organization which takes such pride in performing for its citizens at such a high level”.

The Accreditation Program Manager for the Salisbury Police Department is Diana Gonzalez. She said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar, but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials; interview individuals; and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The assessors are: Deputy Chief Warren L. Wyatt (ret) with the Margate Police Department, Margate Florida and Lieutenant Tanya Perry with the Conyers Police Department, Conyers Georgia. “Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status”, Gonzalez stated.

Accreditation is for three years, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which they were initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc., please write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia 20155; or call (703) 352-4225.